

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3801
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2764

ATHENS FOR SLUTZ AND WAUCHOPE, EX-ASMARA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AFSP, AEMR, ET
SUBJ: ASMARA CONGEN AND KAGNEW

1. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPT ASAP REGARDING WHERE WE GO FROM HERE RE PROPERTY IN ASMARA. ACCORDING OUR RECORDS, CONGEN COMPOUND IS USG-OWNED ALONG WITH SIX DWELLINGS ON COMPOUND (SINCE 1950). ALL OF THEM STILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE USG PROPERTY ON PREMISES AS DO FOUR LEASED PROPERTIES OUTSIDE OF COMPOUND. AT PRESENT TIME TWO FSL CUSTODIAL PERSONNEL ARRANGED FOR BY WAUCHOPE ARE ON CONGEN PREMISES AND HAVE THUS FAR BEEN LEFT ALONE BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES, ACCORDING FSL JUST ARRIVED ADDIS. COMPOUND IN FACT HAS FIVE 2ND DIVISION GUARDS AND TWO FINANCE (CUSTOMS) GUARDS.

2. WE HAVE INFORMED MOFA THAT WE OWN AND LEASE ABOVE-MENTIONED PROPERTY IN ASMARA AND THERE MATTER RESTS FOR MOMENT. DOES DEPT WISH US TO TRY TO EVACUATE PROPERTY, OR SIMPLY LEAVE WHERE IT IS? SHOULD WE TRY TO DISPOSE OF IT BY SALE IN ASMARA? SHOULD WE REQUEST PERMISSION FOR INDEFINITE STAY OF TWO FSL CUSTODIAL PERSONNEL? IN REPLYING, DEPT SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT EVEN IF EPMG
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RECOGNIZES OUR OWNERSHIP AND IS PREPARED TO LEAVE PROPERTY ALONE (BY NO MEANS A CERTAINTY), THERE EVERY CHANCE THAT EPMG WILL BALK AT ANY PROPOSAL TO SEND AMERICAN PERSONNEL FROM ADDIS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIPMENT OR SALE OF PROPERTY, A PROCESS WHICH BY ITS NATURE WOULD BE TIME CONSUMING AND REQUIRE EXTENDED STAY OR STAYS IN ASMARA, A PROSPECT THAT FOR OUR OWN REASONS, WE WOULD NOT RELISH.

3. RE KAGNEW, WE SUSPECT THAT CHANCES OF OUR EVER RETURNING FOR ADDITIONAL PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT ARE CLOSE TO ZERO, GIVEN MILITARY OCCUPATION AND TERMINATION OF 1953 AGREEMENT. ACCORDINGLY, WE CAN ONLY SUGGEST THAT WE WRITE OFF WHAT'S LEFT, WITH VALUE OF ANY DESIRED EQUIPMENT TO BE INCLUDED ONE DAY, IF DEPT WISHES, IN WELTER OF UNSETTLED CLAIMS AND COUNTER-CLAIMS, INVOLVING KAGNEW SUPPLEMENTALS, WATER AND UTILITY BILLS AND MAAG SUPPORT COSTS. WHATEVER DEPT DECIDES, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO EPMG.

4. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST, PARTICULARLY CONGEN. EPMG'S "COMMISSION" IS STILL FUNCTIONING AND SUCH QUESTIONS WILL RECEIVE SOME ATTENTION NOW. ONCE IT DISSOLVES, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE SOON, WE CAN EXPECT ALL KINDS OF BUREAUCRATIC LETHARGY TO SET IN. COMMIS- SION, INCIDENTIALLY, WOULD LIKE COPIES OF 1950 PURCHASE CONTRACTS WHICH WE DO NOT HAVE HERE. IF DEPT CAN LAY HANDS ON THEM QUICKLY AND SEND COPIES TO US, THEY MAY SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE.

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